
With You



Established 1963

The Navy Rugby Football Club News Letter for Alumni and Friends

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10 August 2005

Dear Navy Rugby Friends and Family,

As the 2005 fall season approaches, we want to give you an update on your Navy Rugby club and this year's team. But first, let us recap all of the accomplishments from last year.

Fall '04 Recap

Once again, the Navy team dominated the Mid-Atlantic Union during their fall season. A shining moment of the fall season was certainly a close victory over Penn State on their turf that saw the heavily senior-laden team overcome an impatient and sloppy first half to get their due victory in the second half. However, the highlight of the fall season had to be Navy's game against the Australian Defense Forces Touring Side on Hospital Point. Though the A-side was on the losing side after 80 minutes, the intensity they showed from the sound of the first whistle caught the Aussies on their heels and had Navy controlling most of the ball possession and field position. After a back and forth game that saw multiple lead changes, a few "tactical" substitutions on the part of the Aussie Coaches at half time proved to be the difference. Certainly the loss to Army at Valley Forge Military Academy was a low-point of the fall season, but it served as a burning reminder for the players as they broke for the winter and ensured they would return for the spring season just a little more hungry. The darkest days for the Navy Rugby team and its extended family this past fall were the days following the news that our beloved teammate, coach, mentor, and friend, **LtCol Kevin Shea, USMC** had been tragically killed in Iraq on 14 September. The entire team chose to forgo a scheduled trip out to Air Force to play the Zoomies in their house in order to represent Navy Rugby and pay their respects at LtCol Shea's funeral at Arlington National Cemetery. Kevin Shea's presence was certainly felt during every minute of each practice, game, challenge, and celebration throughout the remainder of the season.

Spring '05 Recap

The spring season was also one of great success. The club's first ever tour to South Africa over Spring Break, in which they compiled a 2-3 record over challenging competition that included the prestigious rugby university, Stellenbosch started the season on the right foot and gave them momentum going into the MARFU play-offs. We would like to thank and recognize **Mr Ken Kies, Mr Tom**

Wamberg and **Mr Ryan Ives** for their generous donations and **Mr Dave Barron** for his guidance and leadership from inception which enabled the club to afford this tour. A difficult loss to Penn State in the MARFU Finals meant that Navy would have to travel to Air Force to play the Zoomies in the first round of the Sweet-16. Fearing no one, the team showed up at Air Force ready to prove something to the rugby community, and we did just that. After a close first half that saw Navy control the tempo of the game entirely, Navy used the second half to take the victory by a score of 19-12. Of note, the defense of Navy kept the high scoring Air Force side out of their try zone all afternoon. The following day, Navy beat a spirited Ohio State team 16-12 to claim a spot in the Final Four, and a showdown with Cal. After two hard weeks of preparation for a challenging Cal side, Navy traveled out to the beautiful Stueber Rugby complex at the University of Stanford. Cal once again proved to be on top of their game when facing Navy and after Navy stood strong for the first 20 minutes, was able to crack and start picking apart the Navy defense. The final score was 50-6, however, it failed to reflect the heart and determination that the team showed on the field.

The Road Ahead

The 2005-2006 schedule is quickly filling up. The newly elected team captains **1/C Jake Womble** and **1/C Ian Uber**, team President **1/C Matt Reichl**, and all the players and coaches would love to see you make it out to a game throughout the course of the season. The current Division I schedule is as follows: (for schedule updates times and live scores and more ensure you check our new and improved website, <http://www.usna.edu/Rugby>).

FALL SEASON DIV I SCHEDULE - 2005

10 Sept	Scrimmage Washington Men's Club vs. Navy
17 Sept	Navy @ Indiana University of Pennsylvania
21-25 Sept	Navy tour to England to play the British Royal Naval College in Dartmouth.
24 Sept	Navy @ Loyola College
07 Oct (Fri)	"Friday night under the lights" AIR FORCE vs. Navy on Farragut Field
14 Oct (Fri)	"Friday night under the lights" Navy @ George Mason University
22 Oct	Towson University vs. Navy
29 Oct	Navy @ University of Maryland
04 Nov (Fri)	"Friday night under the lights" PENN STATE vs. Navy
05 Nov	NAVY RUGBY ALUMNI MATCH

Coaches Corner

We have many exciting initiatives this year; the Rugby Excellence Fund; a very competitive Fall schedule which includes a trip to our Rugby Brothers in the UK for a match against the Britannia Royal Naval College; we'll play Air Force and Penn State here in Annapolis. Air Force will be looking to avenge the home loss in last years Sweet 16 and PSU will be looking to continue their win streak as they beat Navy in the Territorial Finals (MARFU). Let's not forget the rest of our PRU conference, MD looks improved, GMU and Loyola are always tough, and we have a long road trip to IUP early on which looks to be a challenge. We hope to continue the winning verses AFA and right the ship against PSU. As ever our team goal is to play the very best rugby possible while representing the USNA to the highest degree. These team goals will be realized by the continued hard work of our Staff and Midshipmen leaders.

Finally we'd like to thank the Graduating Seniors for their years of hard work. Last May we graduated 23 young men into the Navy and Marine Corps. I suspect they will acquit themselves proudly in their respective careers.

GO NAVY BEAT ARMY

Mike
Coach Flanagan

Hit the Fleet – Earn Your Keep

We wish the best to the newly commissioned rugby players in the **class of 2005** as they head off to join the rest of the Navy Rugby alumni and face the beginning of their military careers. Those moving on are listed below with their respective new service communities.

ENS Matt Bettencourt	NAVY PILOT
2LT Brian Clegg	USMC PILOT
ENS Scott Cleveland	NAVY PILOT
ENS Will Cocos	SPECIAL WARFARE (SEALS)
ENS Brant Deboer	SPECIAL OPS (EOD)
ENS Matt Degree	NAVY PILOT
2LT Damon Doykos	USMC GROUND
2LT Ted Driscoll	USMC GROUND
ENS Warren Fogler	SPECIAL OPS (EOD)
ENS Windsor Frinell	SURFACE WARFARE
ENS Eric Knepper	SUBMARINE WARFARE
2LT Pat Morey	USMC GROUND
ENS Chris Osegueda	SURFACE WARFARE
ENS Ben Pittard	SPECIAL WARFARE (SEALS)
ENS Tony Pjunno	NAVY PILOT
2LT Nick Ralston	USMC GROUND
2LT Aaron Reynolds	USMC GROUND
ENS Tyler Scharar	SURFACE WARFARE
ENS Steve Schwarzer	NAVY PILOT
2LT Jesse Stice	USMC GROUND
2LT Sean Toolan	USMC GROUND
2LT Doug Verblauw	USMC GROUND
2LT Matt Wilckens	USMC PILOT

"...those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

~John F. Kennedy

As you may have heard, there are a number of initiatives that are taking place in support of Rugby at the Naval Academy. You may have already received a letter from the Rugby Excellence Foundation on behalf of Navy Rugby explaining the goals of the Rugby Excellence Fund. A group of alumni and military rugby enthusiasts led by **Ernie Blake '64, Sam Marrone '66, General Carl Fulford, USMC (Ret.) '66, and John Donelan, '88**, have spearheaded an effort to raise \$2 million dollars to build a Navy Rugby Complex across the river at the Naval Station. The complex will include two beautiful flood-lit pitches, locker rooms and showers for the men's and women's teams, as well as visiting teams, plus training and weight rooms. Their campaign will also help fund future travel to future national and international competitions and coaching that will help Navy continue to compete at the highest levels. If you have not received a letter, please contact Lt Ben Oakes at (410)293-7524 or oakes@usna.edu. Or to donate directly you may contact:

**ATTN: Rugby Excellence Fund
U.S. Naval Academy Foundation
Development Division
291 Wood Road
Annapolis, MD 21402-5001
Ph. (410) 295-4177 or (410) 295-4100**

Additionally, Navy Rugby is producing its own Rugby calendar for 2006 that will be available for purchase and will help the club generate funds for the spring season. We also have various Navy Rugby fan-ware available for purchase. More information on where to purchase calendars, T-shirts, sweatshirts, watches, etc. will be forthcoming.

All of us involved with the men's rugby team at Navy are very much looking forward to the upcoming season. We hope that this newsletter finds you doing well in your ventures and still sharing your love for the sport of rugby, the warrior spirit, and the brotherhood. We hope to see each of you back at USNA for homecoming and encourage you to come out to the alumni match on 05 October, even if it is just to cheer on those of us who are still telling ourselves that we are young and fit enough to continue to play. If you can't make it out for the homecoming weekend, we would love to host you at one of our other matches throughout the season. Please do not hesitate to let us know that you will be coming.

With you,
Navy Rugby